

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend/replace the paragraph on page 7, lines 20-24 as follows:

Body 40 is adapted to prevent expansion of plates 62 and 66 greater than width 47 and length 48 of cavity 45. In an exemplary embodiment, body 40 includes a plurality of reinforcing ribs ~~47~~ 41. Ribs 41 add structural rigidity to body 40 to prevent bowing of the body, and, thus prevent expansion of plates 62 and 66 greater than width 47 and length 48 of cavity 45.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1, 16 and 27 without prejudice.

Please amend/replace claims 2-5, 17-21, 28-32 and 36 as follows:

Claim 1. (presently cancelled)

Claim 2. (presently amended)      The battery cell of claim + 32, wherein said cover provides a compressive force to said compressible stack of battery cell elements.

Claim 3. (presently amended)      The battery cell of claim + 32, wherein said receiving area is larger in one or more battery plate growth directions than said compressible stack of battery cell elements.

Claim 4. (presently amended)      The battery cell of claim + 32, wherein said receiving area is smaller one direction than said compressible stack of battery cell elements.

Claim 5. (presently amended)      The battery cell of claim + 32, further comprising one or more apertures on said battery cell structure for receiving a battery electrolyte.

Claim 6. (previously cancelled)

Claim 7. (previously cancelled)  
Claim 8. (previously cancelled)  
Claim 9. (previously cancelled)  
Claim 10. (previously cancelled)  
Claim 11. (previously cancelled)  
Claim 12. (previously cancelled)  
Claim 13. (previously cancelled)  
Claim 14. (previously cancelled)  
Claim 15. (previously cancelled)

Claim 16. (presently cancelled)

Claim 17. (presently amended)      The battery cell of claim ~~16~~ 21, wherein said plurality of separators are absorbed glass mat separators.

Claim 18. (presently amended)      The battery cell of claim ~~16~~ 21, wherein said interior height of said casing is smaller by about 20% than said uncompressed height of said compressible stack.

Claim 19. (presently amended)      The battery cell of claim ~~16~~ 21, wherein said cover includes a plurality of snap lock tabs mateable with a corresponding plurality of recesses in said casing for mating said cover and said casing.

Claim 20. (presently amended)      The battery cell of claim ~~16~~ 21, wherein said compressible stack has a width and a length that is smaller than an interior width and an interior length of said casing.

Claim 21. (presently amended)      ~~The battery cell of claim 16~~ A battery cell, comprising:  
a plurality of positive plates each of said plurality of positive plates having a  
positive lug;  
a plurality of separators;

a plurality of negative plates each of said negative plates having a negative lug, said plurality of positive plates, said plurality of separators, and said plurality of negative plates being configured into a compressible stack;

a casing for receiving said compressible stack, said casing having an interior height smaller by about 5% to 50% than an uncompressed height of said compressible stack; and a cover mated with said casing compressing said compressible stack to about said interior height of said casing, wherein said casing further comprises:

a first slot for receiving said plurality of positive lugs, said first slot being offset from a first side of said casing by a first predetermined distance and said positive lugs being offset a distance corresponding to said first predetermined distance; and

a second slot for receiving said plurality of negative lugs, said second slot being offset from a second side of said casing by a second predetermined distance and said negative lugs being offset a distance corresponding to said second predetermined distance, said first predetermined distance being different than said second predetermined distance.

Claim 22. (previously cancelled)

Claim 23. (previously cancelled)

Claim 24. (previously cancelled)

Claim 25. (previously cancelled)

Claim 26. (previously cancelled)

Claim 27. (presently cancelled)

Claim 28. (presently amended)      The battery cell of claim + 32, wherein said height of said receiving area is smaller than an uncompressed height of said compressible stack of battery elements by about 20%.

Claim 29. (presently amended)      The battery cell of claim + 32, wherein said cover comprises a plurality of snap lock tabs mateable with a corresponding plurality of recesses in said battery cell structure.

Claim 30. (presently amended) The battery cell of claim 1 ~~32~~, wherein said compressible stack of battery elements has a width and a length that is smaller than a width and a length of said receiving area.

Claim 31. (presently amended) The battery cell of claim ~~30~~ 32, wherein said battery cell structure further comprises a plurality of reinforcing ribs for preventing growth of said width and said length of said compressible stack of battery elements larger than said width and said length of said receiving area.

Claim 32. (presently amended) ~~The battery cell of claim 1~~ A battery cell, comprising:  
a battery cell structure, said battery cell structure defining a receiving area, a  
positive alignment opening, and a negative alignment opening;  
a compressible stack of battery cell elements in said receiving area, said  
compressible stack of battery cell elements comprising a plurality of positive plates each having  
a positive tab portion depending outwardly from a periphery, a plurality of negative plates each  
having a negative tab portion depending outwardly from a periphery, and a nonconductive  
separator disposed in between said plurality of positive plates and said plurality of negative  
plates; and  
a cover secured to said battery cell structure covering said receiving area,  
said positive alignment opening aligning said positive tab portion of each of said plurality of  
positive plates, and said negative alignment opening aligning said negative tab portion of each of  
said plurality of negative plates, wherein said positive lug alignment opening is offset from a first side of said battery cell structure by a first predetermined distance and said positive lugs being offset a distance corresponding to said first predetermined distance; and said negative lug alignment opening being offset from said first side of said body by a second predetermined distance and said negative lugs being offset a distance corresponding to said second predetermined distance, said first predetermined distance being different from said second predetermined distance.

Claim 33. (previously added)The battery cell of claim 32, wherein said positive lug alignment opening and said negative lug alignment opening each further comprise growth insulators for

preventing said positive lugs from contacting said negative lugs during growth of the compressible stack of battery cell elements.

Claim 34. (previously added) The battery cell of claim 32, wherein said battery cell structure further comprises a guide for placing and aligning the battery cell within a battery case such that said positive lugs are adjacent or proximate a positive battery electrode of said battery case, and such that said negative lugs are adjacent or proximate a negative battery electrode of said battery case.

Claim 35. (previously added) The battery cell of claim 34, wherein said guide comprises a slot or notch.

Claim 36. (presently amended) The battery cell of claim ~~4~~ 32, wherein said compressible stack of battery cell elements are inserted into said receiving area in an uncompressed state and said cover applies a compressive force to said compressible stack of battery cell elements when said cover is secured to said battery cell structure.

Claim 37. (previously added) The battery cell of claim 3, wherein said compressible stack of battery cell elements are inserted into said receiving area in an uncompressed state and said cover applies a compressive force to said compressible stack of battery cell elements when said cover is secured to said battery cell structure.

Please add new claims 38-46 as follows:

Claim 38. (new) A battery cell for use in a battery configured to receive a plurality of said battery cells, comprising:

a plurality of positive plates each of said plurality of positive plates having a positive lug;

a plurality of separators;

a plurality of negative plates each of said negative plates having a negative lug, said plurality of positive plates, said plurality of separators, and said plurality of negative plates being configured into a compressible stack;

a casing for receiving said compressible stack, said casing having a pair of opposing side walls, a bottom portion disposed therebetween and a pair of opposing end walls, said end walls being disposed between said pair of side walls; and

a cover configured to engage said pair of side walls and said pair of end walls, one of said pair of end walls having a positive lug opening and a negative lug opening wherein said positive lugs and said negative lugs are positioned to be secured to a plurality of positive lugs and a plurality of negative lugs of another battery cell, said positive lug opening being offset a first distance from one of said pair of side walls and said negative lug opening being offset a second distance from the other one of said pair of side walls, said first distance not equal to said second distance.

Claim 39. (new) The battery cell as in claim 38, wherein at least one of said side walls comprises a guide for guiding the placement of the battery cell within the battery.

Claim 40. (new) The battery cell as in claim 39, wherein said guide is configured to mate with a corresponding feature of the battery.

Claim 41. (new) The battery cell as in claim 39, wherein said guide is a notch in the housing.

Claim 42. (new) The battery cell as in claim 39, wherein said guide is a slot in the housing.

Claim 43. (new) A battery cell for use in a battery having a plurality of said battery cells, comprising:

a plurality of positive plates each of said plurality of positive plates having a positive lug;

a plurality of separators;

a plurality of negative plates each of said negative plates having a negative lug, said plurality of positive plates, said plurality of separators, and said plurality of negative plates being configured into a compressible stack;

a casing for receiving said compressible stack, said casing having an interior height smaller than an uncompressed height of said compressible stack; and

a cover mated with said casing compressing said compressible stack to about said interior height of said casing, wherein said casing comprises a guide located in a sidewall of said casing for guiding the placement of the battery cell within the battery.

Claim 44. (new) The battery cell as in claim 43, wherein said guide is configured to mate with a corresponding feature of the battery.

Claim 45. (new) The battery cell as in claim 44, wherein said guide is a notch in the housing.

Claim 46. (new) The battery cell as in claim 44, wherein said guide is a slot in the housing.